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Fifth Annual Report

OF THE

STATE VETERINARY SURGEON

OF THE

STATE OF MONTANA.

December 1, 1893.

BUTTE, MONT.
INTER MOUNTAIN PUBLISHING CO.
1895.

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Fifth Annual Report.

HELENA, Montana, December 1, 1893.

*To His Excellency,
John E. Rickards,
Governor of Montana:*

SIR—I have the honor to submit herewith my annual report as State Veterinarian for the year 1893:

CATTLE.

Generally speaking, all classes of cattle have been remarkably free from disease during the past year. Several small outbreaks of disease have been reported which, upon investigation (with the exception of some few cases of tuberculosis) were found to be non-contagious in character and due to local or dietetic causes. Notwithstanding the large number of southern cattle brought into the State during the past season, we have not had a suspicion of Texas or splenic fever, a fact which speaks well for the system of inspection of southern cattle as carried out by the State and Federal authorities.

INSPECTION OF SOUTHERN CATTLE.

Montana inspection was again made in conjunction with the State of Colorado, and was made without expense to this State, fees sufficient to cover all expenses being paid by the owners of the cattle inspected. The following list, taken from the inspectors' reports, shows the number of head inspected to August 31, 1893:

Name of Inspector	No. Cattle	Where Inspected
J. W. Beaty.....	33,951	On the trail
J. N. Wyatt.....	13,600	On the trail
O. J. Towner.....	49,326	On Santa Fe R. R.
G. G. Lyon	51,344	On Santa Fe R. R.
G. H. Glover.....	45,100	On U. P. R. R.
J. H. Fleming	17,555	On U. P. R. R.

Of this number 50,223 were destined for Colorado; 40,604 were destined for Wyoming; 54,476 were destined for Montana; 29,098 were destined for the Dakotas; 35,226 were destined for Kansas and other Eastern States, and 961 were destined for Nebraska.

In addition to this about 40,000 head went via Panhandle City destined for Montana and the Dakotas and were inspected by United States authorities and not by State Inspectors. Of this number a large majority were undoubtedly intended for Montana ranges, as were many of those in the above list which, however, were billed for Wyoming or the Dakotas. I think 100,000 head would be a very conservative estimate of the number of southern cattle brought into the State during the year. Only a very few eastern cattle were shipped in, and there being now no necessity to inspect such shipments I am unable to give figures as to the number; but for several years past there has been a steady falling off in the number of cattle thus brought into the State.

SOUTHERN FEVER LINE.

There will probably be some slight change made in the southern dead or fever line the coming season, the Secretary of Agriculture having been petitioned by the veterinary sanitary authorities of several States interested to cut out of the safe area the counties of Irion, Tom Green, Sterling, Buchel and Foley, and take in the counties of Hardeman, Ford, Knox, Haskell, Stonewall and Fisher, all in the State of Texas. Cattle from the counties of Wilbarger, Baylor, Throckmorton, Shackleford, Sterling, Irion, Buchel and Foley came north this year under special permits issued by the Department of Agriculture, and as the most interested States, viz: Colorado, Wyoming and Montana, have no objection to this arrangement, it is probable that they will again come north under the same supervision.

HORSES.

Notwithstanding the large number of glandered horses which have been killed in the State during the past seven years the disease continues to appear in some localities with unwelcome frequency. There seems to be such a disposition among many unscrupulous owners of diseased horses to trade them off, give them away, turn them on the range, or to allow them to escape from quarantine, that a complete eradication of the disease is a most difficult task. I am fully aware that the statutes of Montana provide for the punishment of persons offending in this regard, but the trouble lies in our inability to enforce these laws without incurring an expense unwarranted by the funds at our disposal. It seems almost incredible that with horses cheaper than they have ever been in the history of Montana, any man with ordinary sense should wish to keep an animal suffering from a disease not only incurable but capable of being communicated to human beings, as well as other horses. However, I am pleased to be able to state that the public generally is fully alive to the importance of destroying glandered horses, and their presence in different localities has, as a rule, been promptly reported, with the result that during the past year eighty-six head were destroyed, an increase of twenty-seven as compared with the corresponding period of last year. In this connection I would state that continued experiments have been carried on during the year with "Mallein," furnished me by Dr. Salmon of the Bureau of Animal Industry, Washington, D. C., and the results have been most satisfactory. By the use of this preparation the existence or non-existence of glanders in a suspicious subject can soon be proved almost beyond a doubt, and the necessity of quarantining many cases can thereby be obviated.

MONTANA HORSE FEVER.

This disease, which for several years past has annually caused severe losses, was not so prevalent during the past season, yet caused many deaths in some localities. Bacteriological investigations of some considerable extent have been made during the past few months leading to the belief that the origin of the disease will be found in a germ which infests some of the range grasses at certain seasons of the year. These investigations were interrupted by sickness and lack of material, but will be continued as extensively as circumstances will permit during the coming season.

LOCO.

(Astragalus Mollissimus; Oxytropis Lambertii).

The losses from this cause have again been considerable in some localities, and from the fact that the distribution of the weed is becoming more general throughout the State, I fear that the losses will be greater from year to year. I am aware that there is considerable difference of opinion among stock owners regarding the relation of this weed to the disease known as "loco," (if it can properly be called a disease), but we have the following undoubted facts which, in my opinion, are conclusive in the matter: "Loco" never appears among horses which have not access to a range upon which the weed grows. All "locoed" horses if watched on the range will be found to eat the weed freely, while those not affected do not touch it. "Locoed" horses if taken from the range and placed where they cannot get the weed will improve, and in many cases, where they are not too sick, will apparently recover, but if allowed on their favorite range again will soon return to their former condition. Post mortem examinations made upon "locoed" horses have revealed the presence of large quantities of the weed in the intestinal tract, and the absence of almost any other kind of food. Doubtless the reason why such difference of opinion exists regarding the cause of the condition denominated "loco" is that many animals said to be suffering from "loco" are in reality suffering from some trouble of an entirely different character.

SPASM OF GLOTTIS.

This peculiar trouble, although not nearly as prevalent as in former years, has still occasionally appeared. On May 1, 1893, I placed in a field near Finn, in the Boulder Valley, two ponies, 3 and 4 years old respectively, for the purpose of experimentation. This field contained large quantities of sediment from the Elkhorn mill, and I was assured by the owner of the pasture that horses could only survive there for a few weeks at most. A reference to my former reports will show that this disease is supposed by some to exist only in the vicinity of mills and smelters, and it certainly has been prevalent in the country adjacent to the mill referred to, and particularly in the field mentioned.

On September 20 the ponies were removed from the pasture, but up to this date they have shown no signs of the disease whatever.

One of them will now be fed a quantity of the sediment in its daily food, in which way it will be compelled to eat some of the supposed injurious material. This experiment will be tried for negative results, as I certainly do not expect to produce the disease in this way; being firmly of the opinion that we must look to the vegetable and not to the mineral kingdom for its causation. Some limited experiments have been conducted with a view to determining the best mode of treatment for the disease, and the result has been that the bromide of potassium given in large and repeated doses has been found very beneficial, if not an actual specific.

STOCK INDEMNITY FUND.

I desire to particularly call your attention to the manner in which the levy for this fund is made in various counties of this State. Section 59 of Chapter 3, Fifth Division of the Compiled Statutes of Montana, page 607, reads as follows: "Hereafter it shall be the duty each year of the county commissioners of all counties of the State, at the time of making the annual assessment, to levy a special tax, not exceeding one-half of one mill on the dollar upon the assessed value of all cattle, horses, mules, and asses in the State, to be known as the 'stock indemnity fund,' said tax shall be levied and collected by the several counties and paid to the State Treasurer in the manner provided by law for the levying, collection and payment of other State taxes; said fund shall constitute the indemnity fund specified by this act, to be used in paying for animals destroyed and for fees, costs and expenses provided under the provisions therefor. It shall be used exclusively for that purpose, and shall be paid out by the State Treasurer as herein provided for; *Provided*, That where any person owns not exceeding \$500 in value of horses, cattle or mules, the same shall be exempt from taxation under the provisions of this chapter."

Now, while some counties make a maximum levy of one-half of one mill, others make a smaller levy, and many others make no levy at all; and it is a noteworthy fact that counties which pay nothing are often the ones obtaining the greatest benefit from the fund. You will readily see that in attempting the extirpation of any disease in the State cases must be looked after wherever found, and it is manifestly unjust that one county should be taxed for the benefit of another county which does not pay its pro rata of taxation.

SHEEP.

Generally speaking the health of sheep for the past year has been good. In my report for 1892 I called attention to an outbreak of anthrax in the Deer Lodge valley. Prompt measures were taken to confine this dreaded disease to its original locality, and I am pleased to be able to state that the losses from it the past year have been insignificant. Two bands which were affected, however, are still held in quarantine.

SCAB.

Scab appeared during the year among sheep in the counties of Beaverhead, Deer Lodge, Silver Bow, Yellowstone, Jefferson and Custer. In Silver Bow, Jefferson and Yellowstone, it has been eradicated, and I think that a clean bill of health can probably be given to Beaverhead; but Deer Lodge has still one band under quarantine, and Custer has three. Of the bands quarantined in Custer county, two of them, comprising 6,400 head, were brought in from the west during the past summer, but showed no signs of the disease until after being in the State for some time. Your proclamation of June 3rd, 1893, scheduling the states of Oregon, Nevada, California, Washington, Wyoming, Idaho and Colorado, and the territories of Utah and New Mexico, undoubtedly had the effect of keeping many undesirable sheep out of the State. All shipments of sheep coming into the State from these scheduled districts were inspected upon arrival, and as near the State line as practicable. Very few shipments, however, were destined for Montana, nearly the whole of them being en route to eastern markets; but inasmuch as they would stop off in two or more places in the State to graze, it was most important to see that they were free from contagious disease. I am glad to be able to state that the different railroads entering the State were prompt to report the arrival of sheep coming by rail as required by the provisions of said proclamation.

LOCO.

This weed has caused serious losses among sheep in some localities, and as hereinbefore stated may become a serious menace to the stock industries of Montana in the near future.

An itemized statement of expenditures from the stock indemnity fund and the sheep inspector and indemnity fund, will be found in the report of the State auditor. As anticipated in my last report the balance remaining in the sheep inspector and indemnity fund will render it unnecessary to make another levy for several years at least, unless some unlooked for trouble should arise causing extraordinary expenditures.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

HERBERT HOLLOWAY,

State Veterinary Surgeon.

Sixth Annual Report

OF THE

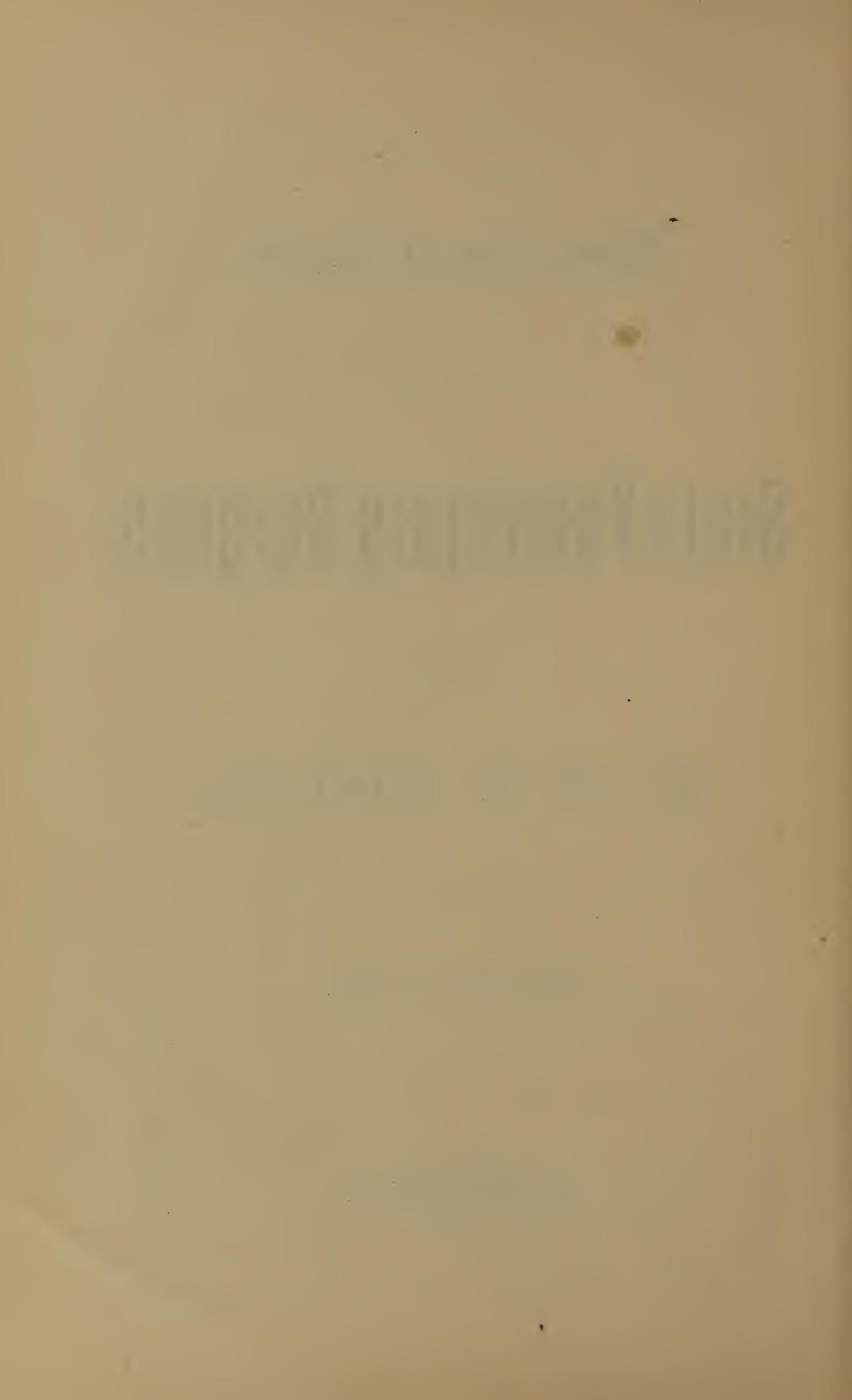
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Sixth Annual Report.

HELENA, Montana, December 1, 1894.

*To His Excellency,
John E. Rickards,
Governor of Montana:*

SIR—I have the honor to submit herewith my annual report as State Veterinarian for the year 1894:

CATTLE.

The general health of cattle the past year throughout the State has been remarkably good. I have not been called upon to investigate a single disease among range cattle, and the few calls which have been made upon me were confined to ranch or dairy stock, and nothing more serious than blackleg and a few cases of tuberculosis was found.

SOUTHERN CATTLE.

There was a great falling off in the number of southern cattle brought into the State this year. Inspection, which as before, was conducted in conjunction with the State of Colorado, was carried on as near the loading point as practicable, and no complaint regarding splenic fever has been made. As anticipated in my last report, some slight change was made in the quarantine line within the State of Texas, but not of sufficient importance to call for particular mention. The inspectors report only 28,897 head of southern cattle as destined

for Montana, but probably some more actually came. Quite a number of western cattle, however, came from non-scheduled localities, but as these were not inspected I have no means of ascertaining the exact number. Very few eastern cattle were brought in, and it seems the importation of this class of cattle for range purposes is falling off year by year.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Although bovine tuberculosis is comparatively a rare disease in this State, climatic and other conditions not being favorable to its propagation, yet we occasionally meet with it among dairy cattle, particularly those highly bred. The question of the suppression of tuberculosis and its relation to the public health is at the present time receiving considerable attention from sanitarians throughout the country. The introduction of "tuberculin" as a test for the disease places us in a position where we can readily form a reliable diagnosis, and I would strongly advise that appropriate legislative action be taken to the end that the small amount of tuberculosis now existing in the State may be eradicated before it obtains a firmer foothold. Under our present veterinary sanitary laws the disease would be difficult to deal with, as no specific mention is made of it in our statutes, and it could only be handled in a general way. This might lead to serious complications, for as yet there seems to be a diversity of opinion as to the time when a tuberculous bovine becomes a menace to the public health, and no good would result if only the more advanced cases were destroyed and those in the incipient stages were permitted to remain in the herd or dairy.

SALE OF DISEASED MEAT.

I would respectfully call your attention to a matter referred to by me in previous reports, viz: the slaughter of diseased and other objectionable animals for food. It seems to be a common practice to kill for home consumption animals which would not find a remunerative sale in the Chicago markets. The custom of killing cows in an advanced stage of pregnancy is radically wrong, and while the meat of such animals may not be actually detrimental to public health, yet it is certainly not the kind of meat that should be sold. Many "big jaws" are undoubtedly killed for consumption and it is a grave question if the meat of such animals is not actually injurious. All cattle,

sheep and hogs killed for food, particularly in our larger centers of population, should unquestionably be inspected by competent authorities before slaughter. In fact an inspection should be made both before and after slaughter, but one inspection, if properly carried out, would do a vast amount of good and prevent many diseased animals from finding their way to the butcher's block.

HORSES.

During the past year what may very properly be termed a "raid" has been made upon glandered horses, and this, coupled with the fact that the remarkably low price of horses generally has induced owners to report suspicious cases more promptly than when horses were more valuable, has resulted in a great increase in the number killed as compared with last year. Although 160 head of glandered horses and mules have been killed in the past year the disease is not nearly so general throughout the State as formerly, in fact in several counties where the disease was once prevalent no cases have been met with for some time, and if local authorities would co-operate with this Department and see that persons violating the law regarding diseased stock were prosecuted, a comparatively clean bill of health in this regard might be reasonably expected in the near future. In connection with the work that has been done tending to the eradication of glanders I would particularly mention that of Dr. W. L. Williams of the Agricultural College, Bozeman, and Charles H. Plummer, deputy for Gallatin and Park counties.

RANGE HORSES.

Although from time to time reports have reached this office requesting investigation of diseases among range stock, nothing of a very serious character has been found. Influenza has been rather prevalent but the losses from "horse fever" have not been as great as formerly, in fact no serious outbreak has been reported, the losses being confined to a few head in different localities.

SPASM OF GLOTTIS.

In my last report I stated that a pony would be fed in its daily food some of the sediment from the Elkhorn mill in the vicinity of the Boulder valley. The experiment was carried out and the pony

fed about thirty pounds of the supposed injurious sediment, but, as I anticipated, no injurious results followed, and the subject remained and still is in perfect health. Further experiments with the bromide of potassium as a remedy for the mysterious trouble go to prove that given in large and repeated doses it is almost a specific.

STOCK INDEMNITY FUND.

I would again respectfully call your attention to the manner in which the stock indemnity fund is levied and collected in various counties. The following table shows the amounts collected for this fund in the several counties of the State:

Lewis and Clarke.....	\$137 79
Missoula.....	33 93
Beaverhead	49 43
Dawson.....	618 22
Jefferson.....	24 15
Granite.....	64 38
Madison	63 31
Gallatin.....	88 19
Silver Bow.....	35 57
Meagher.....	276 00
Custer.....	20 73
Deer Lodge.....	177 79

The counties of Cascade, Teton, Choteau, Flathead, Fergus, Valley, Park and Yellowstone contributed nothing to this fund during the past year. A glance at the sums credited to the contributing counties will show that this levy is made with little justice or reason. If all counties in the State would make a pro rata assessment it is apparent that the levy might be considerably reduced, and one county comparatively free from stock diseases would not be paying for the eradication of some disease hundreds of miles away.

SHEEP.

In the early part of the year "scab," which had given us some trouble last year, broke out in several bands of sheep in Custer county, two bands in Dawson county and one in Deer Lodge. Active measures were at once taken to prevent a spread of the disease, and also to effectually stamp it out. In Deer Lodge county the disease was con-

fined to the original band, which were soon cured. In Dawson county the two bands mentioned were subjected to treatment, and the inspector now reports the county free from the disease. In Custer county more trouble was had, and in addition to dipping the actually diseased sheep a rigid inspection had to be made from time to time of sheep that had been near the infected ranges. Inspector D. H. Bowman of Custer county, reports that from April 11 to November 4, 1894, he caused to be dipped 22,663 sheep, 14,400 of which were dipped three times. He also had during that time 59,843 sheep under his surveillance. He now reports Custer county sheep free from disease, and I am very glad to be able to state that to the best of my knowledge we have not a case of "scab" in the State. Sheep have also during this past year been remarkably free from diseases of all kinds. Very few complaints have been made regarding loco in sheep during the year, the abundance of grass on the ranges in the spring undoubtedly having prevented the sheep from eating the obnoxious weed. The formation of new counties has left many districts without a sheep inspector, and although at the present time we are fortunately relieved from the necessity of employing inspectors, this is a matter that should receive the attention of the woolgrowers in the counties interested, as the necessity for prompt action may arise at any time. Very few western sheep were brought into the State during the year and the shipments through the State to eastern markets were lighter than for years past.

Your proclamation of June 3, 1893, has been enforced, and no complaints have been received regarding sheep from other states brought in during this year.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

HERBERT HOLLOWAY,

State Veterinary Surgeon.

